Subject: FAA FOIA Request Confirmation
Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 9:08:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Federal Aviation Administration
To: Mark Williams

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Submitted on Wed, 09/16/2026 - 21:07

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

I want to Make a FOIA Request for

I want to make a FOIA request for:
FAA Headquarters, Washington, DC

Your Information

First Name:
Mark

Middle Initial:
S

Last Name:
Williams

Company/Organization:
Rice Law, PLLC o/b/o DeFlockILM

Position Title:
Attorney

Address 1:
105 N 6th Street

City:
Wilmington

State:
NC

Zip Code:
28401

Daytime Phone Number:
9103045360

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Email Address:
mwilliams@ricefamilylaw.com

Document Description

The description of the records you are requesting is important. The scope of your request can impact how quickly the agency can respond to your request. Your description should be as clear and specific as possible and must give agency FOIA personnel enough detail so that they are able to reasonably determine exactly which records are being requested and where to locate them. Please provide a brief description of the information you would like to receive in the box below.
Re: Freedom of Information Act request — Certificates of Waiver or Authorization (COAs) and Part 107 waivers issued to North Carolina public agencies
From: Rice Law, PLLC, on behalf of DeFlockILM.org

To the FAA FOIA Officer:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request the following records concerning unmanned aircraft system (UAS/drone) operations by North Carolina state and local government agencies (including law-enforcement agencies, sheriffs' offices, and fire/EMS), for the period January 1, 2020 to the present:

All Certificates of Waiver or Authorization (COAs) issued to any North Carolina public agency, including the agency name, COA number, type/category, airspace or area covered, issue and expiration dates, and any special provisions.
All Part 107 waivers (14 C.F.R. § 107.200) issued to any North Carolina public agency — including but not limited to Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) waivers and any waiver supporting a Drone-as-First-Responder (DFR) operation — with the waiver number, type, issue/expiration dates, and conditions.
Any applications submitted by North Carolina public agencies for the COAs and waivers above.
A list or index of North Carolina public agencies that currently hold an active COA or Part 107 waiver, if the FAA maintains one in the ordinary course.

Format: Please produce records electronically (searchable PDF or native format).

Fee waiver: I request a waiver of fees under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). Disclosure is in the public interest: these records will inform the public about government drone-surveillance operations in North Carolina, and DeFlockILM will publish them at no charge and for no commercial purpose. In the alternative, I request news-media/educational fee status. Please contact me before incurring any fees over $50.

Why to the FAA: North Carolina has required no state UAS operator permit for government operators since December 1, 2024, so no state records custodian holds these authorizations. The FAA is the only source for the COA and Part 107/BVLOS records that document which North Carolina agencies are authorized to fly, and under what conditions.

Please acknowledge receipt and provide a tracking number. Thank you.

Very truly yours,
Mark Spencer Williams
Rice Law, PLLC — on behalf of DeFlockILM.org
105 N. 6th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401 · mwilliams@ricefamilylaw.com · 910.762.3854

Type of Requester

Type of Requester
All Others:

Fees

Are you willing to pay for processing your FOIA request?
Yes

If yes, what is the maximum amount?
$ 50.00

Expedited Processing

Are you requesting expedited processing?
No